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Response dated August 25, 2006
Office Action dated February 27, 2006

Application No. 10/023,698

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-32. Canceled.

33. (Currently Amended) A network device for connection in a communication path of a network comprising a controller operable to detect, along the communication path, a predetermined tag within content passed along the communication path and to report the detection together with information identifying a sender and/or recipient of the content.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring content transmitted by a network comprising detecting, along a communication path, a predetermined tag within content transmitted through the network and reporting the detection together with information identifying a sender and/or recipient of the content with a network device.

35. (Previously Presented) A computer program product stored in a computer readable medium for carrying out the method according to claim 34 in a processor in the network which when executing causes the processor to perform the steps of:

detecting a predetermined tag within the content by the network; and
reporting the detection together with information identifying at least one of a sender of the content and a recipient of the content.

36. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring transmission of content between terminals in a network comprising a network device located in a communication path in the network and a monitoring center connected to the device wherein a controller is included in the device which is operable to detect, along the communication path, a predetermined tag within content ~~in the communication path~~ and to report the detection of the predetermined tag together with information identifying a sender and/or recipient of the content to the center.

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37. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the monitoring center is operable to receive reports from a plurality of networks each having at least one controller.

38. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in Claim 36, comprising a billing entity connected to the center.

39. (Withdrawn) A revenue collection system for collecting revenue for content passing through a network, comprising a network device located in a communication path of the network and a monitoring center connected to the network device wherein the network device is operable to detect a predetermined tag within content and to report the detection together with information identifying a sender and/or recipient of the content to the center, the center being operable to issue a request to a billing entity to carry out a transaction in relation to the sender and/or recipient.

40. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in Claim 39 wherein the transaction comprises debiting an account of the sender and/or recipient.

41. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the information includes a network identity such that the center issues the request to a billing entity responsible for the identified network.

42. (Withdrawn) A revenue collection method for collecting revenue due on predetermined content transmitted over a network comprising detecting the predetermined content in a path of transmission in the network with a network entity which obtains an address of a sender and/or recipient of the content and requests a billing entity to carry out a transaction in relation to the sender and/or recipient.

43. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein the transaction comprises debiting an account of the sender and/or recipient.

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44. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 42, comprising preliminarily determining which revenue from content is to be collected by associating a tag with the content prior to making the content available for transmission.

45. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the predetermined content is stored on a data carrier.

46. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a message incorporating content including an embedded tag from a terminal connected to a network using a network device along a communication path in accordance with claim 33 the method comprising obtaining content, placing the content and a tag into a payload portion of the message, and transmitting the message over the network including the device.

47. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the content is obtained by downloading from a server.

48. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the content is obtained from a data carrier uploading from a player of the data carrier.

49. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the message comprises at least one packet.

50. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the tag is embedded in the at least one packet.

51. (Withdrawn) A method of creating content for controlled distribution over a network using a network device in accordance with claim 39 comprising, generating content, determining a right holder and updating a corresponding right holder record with information regarding the content.

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52. (Previously Presented) A computer program which performs the method of claim 34 stored in a computer readable medium comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a controller within the network, wherein the controller is operable in accordance with the code.

53. (Withdrawn) A computer program which performs the method of claim 42 stored in a computer readable medium comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a controller within the network, wherein the controller is operable in accordance with the code.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer program which performs the method of claim 46 stored in a computer readable medium comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a controller within the network, wherein the controller is operable in accordance with the code.

55. (Withdrawn) A computer program which performs the method of claim 51 stored in a computer readable medium comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a controller within the network, wherein the controller is operable in accordance with the code.

56. (Previously Presented) A method of generating a control message by a network device, along a communication path, to be sent to a monitoring center connected to the device, the control message indicating passing of content having a predetermined tag embedded within the content through the network device, the control message comprising an identification of the content originating device, a destination address for the content, and a flag created by the network device.

57. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 56, wherein the flag identifies the network device.